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CIA Student Subsidy Faces House Probe

Journal Wire Services

Washington, D. C. — Disclosure that the government's top espionage agency financed activities abroad by the nation's largest college student organization brought howls of protest Wednesday and demands for an investigation.

Rep. Perkins (D-Ky.) Wednesday announced plans for a congressional investigation of the situation. Perkins said the matter would be brought before his house education and labor committee, possible at the next scheduled committee meeting Feb. 28.

Eight house Democrats urged an inquiry at the highest level into the secret funding by the central intelligence agency of participation by the National Student association (NSA) in world student conferences.

The organization, whose board of directors said it was shocked by the disclosure, received an estimated \$200,000 a year during most of the period of the undercover relationship, which lasted 14 years. It was broken off at the request of the NSA, a 1.3 million member group with affiliations at 300 campuses.

The Washington Evening Star said Wednesday that the CIA had supplied millions of dollars in secret financial support through foundations to at least three youth organizations in addition to the NSA.

The Star identified the organizations as:

The United States Youth Council, a confederation of 36 political, religious, student and service youth groups with headquarters in New York.

The World Assembly of Youth, a confederation of na-

tional youth groups from 54 western and nonaligned nations, with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The International Student conference of Leiden, Netherlands, a similar confederation of about 60 national student organizations of western and non-aligned nations.

The newspaper identified the principal donor to the NSA and the three other groups as the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs in New York.

In another development, the New York Times said President Johnson intervened in the controversy and instructed the CIA Tuesday to close out all secret programs of aid to student groups. A White House spokesman denied the report.

Sam Brown, chairman of NSA's supervisory board, said Tuesday night that it came as a shock to find that the board was "only the policy making body on the secondary level."

Asked to name the top policy making body, he said: "The CIA."

An unidentified NSA official said: "Every year the CIA picked out a man or two that we could trust and told them about the undercover funding."

The source said some of these young men later joined the CIA, often acting as liaison agents to the student group.

Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.), who has helped spearhead federal aid for education, called for a sweeping review of all government aid to educational organizations.

"What is the CIA that it should be the arbiter of all that is right and just?" she asked. "Perhaps we need a law requiring the registration of government agencies trying to influence education, just as we have laws requiring lobbyists to register."

Not all congressmen were aroused, however. One old hand familiar with security matters said: "There is nothing new in all this. It just happened to surface."

Spokesmen for NSA and the CIA declined comment on the disclosure Tuesday. Allen W. Dulles, who headed the CIA when the link was forged, said

it was a response to widespread Communist influence in student organizations abroad during the early 1950's.

The CIA funds apparently supported official representation of the NSA at student conferences held throughout the world. An NSA spokesman said

it hired American students, usually going to school overseas as its representatives.

The eight house Democrats claimed their protest over the arrangement at President Johnson. They declared in a letter that the CIA had "compromised and corrupted the largest student organization in the largest democracy in the world."

"What conditions were laid down for the subsidy?" they asked. "Have officials of the NSA been granted special treatment, including draft deferments? Are there any other student organizations with similar relations with the CIA? The signers were Reps.

George Brown, Philip Burton and Don Edwards of California, Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, Conyers of Michigan and Dow, Rosenthal and Ryan of New York.

There were no answers to the questions from the White House, the CIA or the NSA. The national supervisory board of the student organization was summoned hastily to Washington to decide what to do.

Serious consideration was being given to disbanding the 20 year old NSA and re-establishing it under a new name and a new charter.

The scene at NSA's national headquarters Tuesday was one of total dismay, verging at times on panic. W. Eugene Groves, 23, NSA's current president, read a statement several times for the television cameras and then disappeared.

Robert Amory, jr., who was deputy director of the CIA at the height of the agency's relationship with the student organization, acknowledged in a telephone interview that "there was support to organizations like this."

"It would have been nonsense for there not to be," he said. "If we hadn't done this, we could have just been run over by the commie front organizations."

Amory said the CIA had given American students "the wherewithal to attend international student conferences such as the Helsinki world youth festival in 1962 and the Vienna youth festival in 1959."

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